

Serial No. 10/724,777

Amendment dated December 3, 2004

In Reply of Office Action date June 3, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (cancelled).

19 (currently amended). A manhole having an openable and closable outwardly opening manhole cover, comprising:

- a) a manway defining the manhole, the manway being configured for being provided on a negative pressure storage tank;
- b) the outwardly opening manhole cover being hingedly attached to the manway;
- c) the outwardly opening manhole cover including a hinge frame assembly;
- d) a seal provided on the negative pressure storage tank manway;
- e) a pin provided for securing the outwardly opening

manhole cover to the manway;

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- f) a locking and sealing assembly being provided adjacent to the outwardly opening manhole cover; and
- g) the locking assembly including a locking and sealing element for engaging the outwardly opening manhole cover with the seal for locking and sealing the negative pressure storage tank manway.

20(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 19, wherein:

- a) the locking and sealing element includes a threaded locking post, the threaded locking post being moveable relative to the hinge frame assembly and the cover for locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

21(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 19, wherein:

- a) a groove is provided in the seal, the groove being configured for receiving a rim of the manhole cover.

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22(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 21,
wherein:

a) the pin is provided between the hinge frame
assembly and the manway, and the pin secures the hinge frame
assembly to the manway.

23-26(cancelled).

27(previously presented). A manhole as in claim 19, wherein:

a) a mounting flange is provided adjacent the manhole
cover.

28(previously presented). A manhole as in claim 27, wherein:

a) a bolting flange is provided adjacent the manway.

29(previously presented). A manhole as in claim 28,
wherein:

a) a gasket is mounted between the bolting flange and
the mounting flange.

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30 (previously presented). A manhole as in claim 28,
wherein:

a) the mounting flange is bolted to the bolting
flange.

31-41 (cancelled).

42 (new). A manhole as in claim 19, wheroin:

a) the locking assembly includes a threaded locking
post, and the threaded locking post is movable relative to the
hinge frame assembly and the openable and closable cover for
locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

43 (new). A manhole as in claim 42, whrein:

a) the locking assembly includes a locking post base
adjacent the threaded locking post, and the locking post base is
fixed relative to the cover.